

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05 /081 W

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R 061113Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6481

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, IV

SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S NEW YEAR MESSAGES

SUMMARY: IN HIS TRADITIONAL END OF YEAR MESSAGE, GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY STRUCK A SOMBER NOTE, SAYING STATE OF WORLD GAVE MORE CAUSE FOR SHAME THAN PRIDE. CITING CASES OF LEBANON AND ANGOLA, HOUPHOUET REITERATED HIS BELIEF IN FUTILITY OF WAR AND NECESSITY OF DIALOGUE. TURNING TO INTERNAL SCENE, GOIC PRESENT CAUTIONED IVORIANS NOT TO BELIEVE THEY COULD LIVE ISOLATED FROM WORLD, AN ISLAND OF PEACE AND STABILITY. HOUPHOUET ALSO WARNED AGAINST FALSE SENSE OF CONTENTMENT OR EGOISM AT DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED THUS FAR IN IVORY COAST, SAYING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NATION WAS FRAGILE AND VULNERABLE

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UNDERTKAING. IN JAN 1 ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HE

FORECAST ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES  
DURING 1976. END SUMMARY

1. HOUPHOUET'S TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S EVE MESSAGE, DELIVERED TO THE NATION BY RADIO ON EVENING OF DECEMBER 31, WAS SHORTER THAN USUAL AND CHARACTERIZED BY TONE OF QUIET PESSIMISM. GOIC PRESIDENT SAID WORLD SEEMED TO HAVE LOST ITS WAY, WITH EGOISM AND POWER-LUST LEADING QUICKLY TO USE OF FORCE IN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. QUIET VOICES OF THOUGHT AND REASON WERE OVERHELMED BY UNLOOSED PASSIONS. IN FACE OF DEPRESSING WORLD SITUATION, ONE COULD ONLY REITERATE THE FUTILITY OF FRATRICIDAL WARS SUCH AS NOW RAGED IN LEBANON AND ANGOLA AND TO UNDERLINE THE NECESSITY OF TOLERANCE AND DIALOGUE.

2. HOUPHOUET REMINDED IVORIANS THAT THEY ARE CITIZENS OF AFRICA AND WORLD AS WELL AS IVORY COAST AND THAT THEY CANNOT LIVE IN ISLAND OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN EGOISTIC BELIEF THAT WORLD EVENTS CANNOT TOUCH THEM. WORLD IS INTERDEPENDENT AND IVORIANS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS, LEARNING FROM OTHERS' EXPERIENCES HOW IVORY COAST CAN IMPROVE ITS OWN SOCIETY.

3. HOUPHOUET SAID THAT IF NATION-BUILDING IS TO SUCCEED, SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES MUST BE FOUGHT. OTHERWISE THERE COULD BE NO SOCIAL PEACE. HOUPHOUET CLOSED BY TELLING LISTENERS THAT "AT EVENING OF HIS LIFE" THE HAPPINESS OF IVORIANS REMAIN HIS ONLY PASSION.

4. HOUPHOUET EXPANDED ON THESE THEMES DURING ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON JANUARY 1, ADDING THAT DESPITE DEPRESSING WORLD SITUATION IVORY COAST WOULD REMAIN TRUE TO ITS IDEALS OF LIBERTY, FRATERNITY AND PEACE. HE ALSO SAID THAT 1976 WOULD SEE IVORY COAST ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH MORE COUNTRIES WHERE THIS WAS JUSTIFIED BY "HISTORICAL EVOLUTION," COMPLEMENTARITY OF ECONOMIC OR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, AND A FOUNDATION OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE.

5. COMMENT: HOUPHOUET'S PHILOSOPHICAL, AT TIMES PONTIFICAL, TONE REFLECTS BOTH THE SOMBRENNESS OF HIS EAR-END MOOD AND THE AWARENESS WHICH HE HAS ARTICULATED IN SEVERAL SPEECHES DURING THE YEAR THAT HIS LIFE IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. HE  
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WOULD LIKE TO PLAY A BROADER PEACE-MAKING ROLE IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD BUT HAS LARGELY BEEN FRUSTRATED FROM DOING SO. THE FEELING THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT MAKES IT NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT IN 1976 HOUPHOUET WILL DECIDE "HISTORICAL EVOLUTION" JUSTIFIES RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS OTHER STATES.  
SMITH

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